

The Snow Country Hunting Life of the Northern Nobleman and the Raptor Wife 北欧貴族と猛禽妻の雪国狩 り暮らし

Interlude — Aina and Emmerich's Snow Country Hunting Life

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Chapter 123 - On the Ship

Finally, I was to return to Aina-chan's village.

I am extremely nervous.

I wrote to Ritz-kun and Aina-chan's mother that I am alright, but I still was restless.

It seems that her grandfather lost his fangs, but even now I end up trembling just from thinking about that.

Aina-chan was receiving abuse. Because she was being pen pals with someone like me.

Her grandfather wanted to marry his granddaughter to someone he accepted. Then, I snatched her away. It might be natural that he gets angry.

However, I think hitting Aina-chan is too much.

The more I thought about that, the more I felt sorry for her, and the more I censured myself.

Ritz-kun said, "Bergholm family has a complicated situation and context, so don't hastily rule someone as bad."

Those were the only words that helped me.

When I meet him in person, I wish to introduce myself properly.

On the ship going to the village, I thought of such things.

Indeed. We were going back to Ritz-kun's village.

We got a private room, and were spending the trip leisurely.

Aina-chan was spending the time sewing.

Since I couldn't do anything, I stared at her work diligently.

Rossa approached me while meowing.

She rubbed against me, in a rare moment.

I wonder if she might be trying to cheer me up from my depression. What a kind cat. I'm touched.

When I lifted her and tried to hug her, she extended her legs and refused.

I got shocked.

At least she didn't pull her claws out.

Aina-chan approached and said, "Rossa might be hungry."

Ah, right. I see.....

The cat food is in my bag. She was demanding me to prepare quickly.

As Rossa-san's 'Lifetime Feeder', I put dried vegetables and fish on a plate.

I stared at Rossa as she chomped down on the food.

I told her to eat slowly.

While I was staring off absentmindedly, someone tapped my shoulder lightly.

".....Hey, is something wrong?"

"!"

Is Aina-chan worrying for me this time? She was staring at me like Rossa was.

“For some reason, your expression is grim from a while ago, you know?”

“R-Really?”

“Realy.”

I’ll be energised if you rub against me! Of course I couldn’t say that, so I smiled cheerfully and told her that she’s imagining it.

What should I say. I’m scared of getting disliked by her, so I could not yet tell her my true feelings nor reach out for her.

I have no excuses to offer even if I am called an idiot.

However, she’s only 17.

.....I’m 28. From her viewpoint, I am an old guy.

Really, I pondered many times if she really was alright with me.

Low confidence is an incurable disease of mine.

Furthermore, what worries me is whether I’ll be able to hunt well in the village.

I don’t know how to hunt, nor do I know etiquette.

Maybe I can find work at the fort?

No, that’s under the jurisdiction of the army so I can’t.

Could someone like me really be with such a cute girl. I felt sorry.

“Are you feeling unwell?”

“!”

While I was lost in thought, worrying, Aina-chan laid her hand on my forehead.

I flinched out of surprise.

“No, I’m well.”

“Then what is it? You’re acting weird from a while ago.”

“.....I’m nervous.”

“Why?”

“I’m uneasy about many things.”

I shouldn’t be saying such things, but when Aina-chan asked my thoughts came flooding out.

Could she have thought of me as an untrustworthy person?

She had her eyes wide open and stared at me.

“What are you uneasy about?”

“Living in the village, work, Aina-chan’s grandfather.”

“you were worried about such things?”

“Eh!?”

It seems like the things I had been agonising over were of no big deal to her.

I was surprised.

Aina-chan touched my hands which were on my lap.

The moment they touched, my heart skipped a bit.

When I looked at her face, she was smiling.

It was a serene expression that was consoling me.

“Don’t worry. It’s alright.”

Aina-chan spoke to me.

She told me to leave things regarding daily life to her.

Regarding interacting with other villagers, she too is not used to it, so she said that we should strive together.

About work, she told me that hunting is not everything.

Recently, there are merchants that buy handicrafts at high prices, so a normal life could be led if we tried hard.

There seems to quite a lot of work, such as at the port or at stores.

In winter, there are also people who go to the cities to earn money.

She told me that there’s not only one way.

“So, don’t act strangely.”

“Yes. Thank you, thank you.”

About hunting, Ritz-kun said that he’ll teach me.

I have no leisure to say that I am scared of bucking deers. To protect my life with Aina-chan, I have to do my best.

“Aina-chan.”

“W-What?”

On her hand which was on one of my hands, I laid the other hand on top.

Then, I told her my true feelings.

“Though I am useless and cannot work enough for a man, but I can confidently say that I love Aina-chan the most in the world.”

“Eh?”

What could this “Eh!?” mean?

If she didn’t hear clearly, I have to say it again.

It’s very embarrassing, but it’s important so I said it again.

“I love Aina-chan the most in the w——”

“I did hear that!”

“S-Sorry!”

Th-That scared me! So she did hear.

Then, what could that “Eh!?” possibly mean.....

Maybe she’s turned off because I said something ‘in the world’?

I already said it, so there’s no helping it.

I decided tell it all the way through.

“So, then, if it’s alright, please marry me!”

I put my forehead to the floor and begged.

This is second proposal.

The first time was when we moved into the countryside and registered the marriage.

However, back then, it was for light confirmation, so shield ourselves from others, so she accepted the forceful proposal with understanding.

But this time, it's different.

This will be the first and the last time I propose wholeheartedly.

I spent all my courage on today.

What if she refuses, I had not pondered such a thing.

Sometimes, I am frightened about how I get too positive in strange directions.

Now, I could only just wait for Aina-chan's reply.

".....Ah, raise, your head."

As she wished, I quickly raised my head and returned to normal.

Aina-chan's face was bright red.

"Erm, about the answer, anytime you want,"

It's fine after I become properly accepted into the village.

I just wanted to convey my feelings to her.

However, Aina-chan grabbed my coat hem to stop me.

Without meeting my gaze, she said one sentence.

“I-I am inexperienced, but please take care of me.”

“!”

The moment she said that, I felt as though steam would come out of my head.

To think she agreed to marriage!

While in disbelief, I quickly spoke up.

“Is it really okay!?”

“.....There’s only you for me.”

“!”

Maybe because Aina-chan was embarrassed too, she quickly went away and turned her back on me.

Ah, even so, I am happy.

Any bit of restlessness that I had flew away in a snap.

Chapter 124 - New Life!

Second night.

We will arrive at the port tomorrow morning. It's the last night of the boat trip.

This time, Aina-chan was the one lost deep in thought.

She might be having complicated feelings as she's getting closer to her homeland.

"Aina-chan, why don't we go out to the deck?"

"Why?"

"To change the mood."

It was cloudy yesterday, but it's clear today. The lady at the dining hall said that it will be clear again tomorrow so I might be able to see the night sky.

When I reached my hand out, she gently interlocked her fingers with mine.

When I told Rossa, whom I could not see, to stay here, a "Nyan" came from under the blankets.

When I came here, I was surprised by the starry night sky.

Shining so brightly that it feels as though I could reach out for it, the dazzling stars were like gems in the night sky.

It was so beautiful that I forgot about what I troubled me, and got absorbed in it.

Like how I felt, I thought that it would be nice if the pretty night sky would console Aina-chan's heart.

On the deck, there was no one else but the sailors. I soon discovered the reason.

.....Deathly cold!!

I wonder why. It's spring, yet a wind that threatens to shred the body blows while there's ice floating in the sea.

O-Oh no! Aina-chan came out without any additional clothes!

I took off my coat and put it around her shoulders.

C, c-c-c-cold. However, Aina-chan is more important.

I was thinking that, but I sneezed loudly, and my coat was returned to me.

Aina-chan said that the current temperature is the mild warmth of spring, telling me that she was fine.

She's a snow fairy born in the snow country indeed.

This extreme cold is nothing for her. I was awed.

I grabbed onto the gunwale and stared up into the sky.

"I-It's the sky of Aina-chan's homeland....."

"!"

Today too, the night sky was spilling down. It really think that it's very beautiful.

The sky of my homeland is not this pretty, even in the countryside.

Maybe it's especially beautiful because the air is clear.

While I was staring up for a while, a star streaked across the sky.

A shooting star! It's the first time I'm seeing it.

I turned around to Aina-chan to see if she saw it too, but then I got surprised.

In her eyes that were reflecting light from the lamp from the light, tears welled up.

However, the oil in the lamp soon ran out, and the light disappeared. We were then surrounded in darkness.

What should I do!! While I was thinking that, Aina-chan said, "Thank you," in a soft voice.

If she's thanking me, then the tears before should be tears of joy.

I thought that it was really good.

Until we came here, Aina-chan didn't really have any strong opinions.

When we were living in my homeland, I asked her a few times if she wanted to return to her homeland.

She only shook her head.

However, inside, she too wanted to returned.

"Aina-chan, I——"

Wasn't wrong.

When I was about to say that, Aina-chan suddenly hugged me.

From the sudden action, I froze up.

Should I hug her back?

She was repeating words of thanks from a while ago.

In the end, before I could hug her back, Aina-chan split herself.

Dangerous. My face is hot. I'm probably making a pathetic expression from embarrassment.

".....What a relief that it's dark now."

I unconsciously said my feeling out loud.

However, something unexpected happened again.

Aina-chan grabbed my wrists and looked up at me.

Now that my eyes were used to the dark, I could see that her eyes were closed.

Could this mean, that I could kiss her!?

.....Eh, really?

Am I not just thinking things however I want!?

Because, this is impossible!

"Eh, ah, really?"

I tried asking, but Aina-chan did not answer.

Which is it!

As I had my hands grabbed, I spent a while in the cold weather.

It's cold.....

Because I couldn't bear it for many reasons, I kissed Aina-chan.

She silently accepted it.

I was so happy that I had tears.

I ended up hugging Aina-chan and thanking her.



The next morning, we arrived at the port near Ritz-kun's village.

At the port, Aina-chan's mother was there to greet us.

From seeing the mother and the daughter reunited, I got teary-eyed.

We moved to the village in a carriage.

At the fort entrance, Ritz-kun and Sieglinde greeted us.

From Ritz-kun's welcome, I got teary-eyed again.

I felt relieved that the two of them were healthy.

Ritz-kun is still the refreshing snow fairy, and Sieglinde looks strong.

Seeing the unchanged appearance of the couple, I relieved.

At the fort window, I made something like a villager ID.

I was surprised that the attitude of the soldiers improved.

But then I noticed that I was glared at when no one else was looking.

Why....., I thought, but I snatched Aina-chan away from the village and ended up marrying her.

They might be resentful to me because of that.

.....S-Sorry.

I apologised to the soldiers at the fort in my head.

After parting ways with Ritz-kun and others, we headed to Aina-chan's house.

Here, my heart pounded the most.

I was meeting the grandfather again.

My heart pounded the hardest I ever experienced.

No, it pounded the most when I kissed Aina-chan yesterday.

It's alright! Probably!

I felt like I would be able to stand up to his pressure.

I had good alcohol and high-quality ham I bought in my country.

We headed straight for the living room.

The grandfather was there.

Seeing Aina-chan and me, his eyes went wide open.

He stood up vigorously.

"A, aa....., Aina!"

I clenched my fists to be able to protect her at a moment's notice.

However, he did something unexpected.

After approaching her, he crouched down and touched the floor with his forehead.

Then, he kept saying sorry.

“Grandpa, stop, it’s alright now.”

Aina-chan forgave him.

I’m not angry, she said as she gently patted his back that looked so small now.

I didn’t know what I should do, so I just stood there absentmindedly.



Grandfather coolly acknowledged the marriage.

Then, he said, “Thank you for cherishing my granddaughter.”

After that, I had food Aina-chan’s mother made, but I was so nervous that I could not taste a thing.

I felt very sorry.

From her mother’s words of “The house is in a clean condition,” I came to.

It seems like Aina-chan and I will be living in the house lent to us by Ritz-kun.

I had completely forgot about the existence of our house.

The bated newlywed life.

I was prepared to live with Aina-chan's family.

I was even prepared to face grandfather's abuses.

But, but to live alone with Aina-chan!!

This is paradise, I thought.

Aina-chan's mother, who took special care, told us to go home.

The home I was visiting for the first time.

Aina-chan had the keys.

I did notice that she had a necklace on all the time, but apparently it seems like she had the house key with her all the time.

Key girl, how adorable. I didn't know.

The house was full of lovely embroidered goods.

Curtains, cushions, tablecloth, and blankets.

They're all hand-made Aina-chan.

It felt like a fairy's house.

When I told her that it has a great interior, she looked happy.

As I unpacked the luggage, it soon became time for dinner.

They were all great and delicious.

The shed next to the house is a bathroom. Aina-chan's grandfather helped build it, or so. I felt thankful.

When I prepared the bath and told Aina-chan that she can go it, but she said that she can't enter before her husband.

It was the same back in my country, I wonder if this is a custom of the village.

Well, there was no reason for me to press hard, I graciously accepted her goodwill.

After exiting the bath, I headed straight for the bedroom.

Of course, there was only one bed.

For now, I didn't lie down yet and sat down on a chair next to the bed.

An hour later, Aina-chan came.

"What's wrong? Aren't you sleep?"

I'm a little excited right now. I couldn't say a thing.

Aina-chan in her pyjamas was too cute.

"Come on."

"!"

Aina-chan sat down on the bed and said that.

Th-This is the true newlywed life.

Just in case, I asked if it was alright for me to sleep together with her.

“What are you talking about? We’re married couples, right?”

“!”

Surprisingly, she agreed.

I had thought that it would take some years.

Indeed, this village might be paradise.

“A-Aina-chan!”

When I was about to embrace her, I was stopped by someone.

“Nyan.”

“.....Huh, Rossa?”

Rossa-san started sleeping between Aina-chan and me.

Come to think of it, she slept together every night.

However, that was not the only problem.

Right next to Rossa-san, I heard light breathing from right next to Rossa-san.

“.....Huh, Aina-chan, are you asleep?”

She probably was tired from spending time on a boat and getting adjusted to a new life.

Even when I spoke to her, she was fast asleep, not noticing me at all.

Nn. What, it's like this, eh. First nights are like this.

Everyone definitely experiences this.

I decided to convince myself so.

Chapter 125 - Day One of Remote Land Life!

Morning. Today, yet again, I woke up from Rossa-san's vigorous kneading.

While meowing, she was demanding me to prepare food.

Aina-chan who should have been sleeping next to me was no longer there.

I felt disappointed that I couldn't see her sleeping face as I got up.

Rossa who was vulnerable to the cold snuggled up where I was sleeping. While watching that, I slowly changed my clothes.

I stoked the fire with a poker and then left the bedroom. Rossa also followed.

I headed to the bathroom, drew some water and washed my face. I also brushed my teeth

The water was very cold and sent a jolt through my body. So this is natural water from the remote land.....

At the meowing attack of Rossa-san, I apologised and asked her to wait a little more.

Already, the light was lit in the living room fireplace.

I put some of Aina-chan's handmade preserved food from the shelf in a plate. I was still on my way, but she poked her face out from under my arm and started eating already.

I set the food down and left so as to not disturb her.

From the kitchen, the nice scent of breakfast was flowing out.

I peeked in, wondering if I could help, but I was disallowed from coming in.

On the table, a basket of bread was placed in the centre, then soup, grilled bacon and jam was placed.

It was a blissful morning scenery.

“Ah, today, Ritz-oniicha- I mean..... the lord will be coming.”

“H-Hehh~”

So Aina-chan calls Ritz-kun ‘oniichan’.

Imagining the two snow fairies playing together, a warm and fuzzy feeling filled me.

More importantly, it seems that Ritz-kun will be telling me many things.

There were things I wanted to ask as well, so I felt thankful.

I think we arranged it yesterday when I was registering as a villager.

Since he’s busy from the afternoon, he told me that he will be coming at the second bell of the morning.

Meanwhile, Aina-chan said that she will be sharing soup with her family, so I followed.

When I chopped some firewood, mother-in-law was happy.

Even so, it feels like the atmosphere of the village changed quite a bit.

Before, it felt rather diffident, but now the villagers were interacting more.

I think that it would be nice if we could get to know others at that rate.

Then, after a brief moment, it was time for Ritz-kun to come.

He brought a simple gift along with two chickens.

“Sorry. For coming to a newlyweds’ home right after moving in.”

Not at all, I shook my head.

Since a stranger came, Rossa stared at Ritz-kun warily.

“Ah, so this is the rumoured Rossa? Hehh, she’s cute.”

Because he praised Rossa, Aina-chan looked happy.

Indeed, the snow fairy sibling heals people just from their appearance.

When Ritz-kun called her name and beckoned her over, Rossa slowly approached even as she had her guard up.

When she reached him, he hugged her up.

Surprisingly, Rossa was behaving well in Ritz-kun’s arms.

I-Indeed, he’s Ritz-kun, who tamed that wild crimson eagle.

The cat that was not friendly to anyone else but Aina-chan, Rossa-san fell in a moment.

Anyhow, we moved on to the main reason for coming.

Ritz-kun told me about living in the remote region.

“First, the toughest thing is without a doubt, winter.”

In this country, there’s a period called ‘polar nights (kaamos)’ where the sun does not rise.

During that period, hunting can’t be done since it’s dangerous, and it’s dark outside so it seems that we’ll be spending most of the time in our home.

In spring, reindeers are milked, wild herbs are picked, and syrup from tree sap is gathered.

From this period, hunting is prohibited.

In summer, people pick berries, fish, or gather mushrooms.

In autumn, the prohibition on hunting is lifted and people start making preserved foods for the polar nights.

Ritz-kun was saying that in a casual manner, but doing all that was a great feat.

“Emmerich, you don’t have to worry about anything. I’ll teach you everything.”

He said that it’s not all that hard.

Ritz-kun, somehow, you’re very reliable.....!!

I bowed down deeply and asked him to take care of me.

“Ah, then, moving on the main point,”

“?”

Aina-chan and I both tilted our head.

What could the main point be.....?

“I’m running a pub of sorts where people can enjoy drinks.”

Ritz-kun, even though you’re busy already, working even more.

I was further surprised upon hearing why he started the store.

Believe it or not, he’s trying to make a place where the villagers can socialise so that they can spend the polar nights happily.

Only Ritz-kun can think this up because he had tough times when he was spending the polar nights alone.

“Iyaa, the beginning was nice. But it unexpectedly went too well.....”

So, he was asking Aina-chan and me to help out.

“So that’s what you meant by request.”

“Right. Ah, but if you don’t want to, you’re free to refuse.”

He told me that I could reply later.

Then, it seems that there will be a welcoming party at Ritz-kun’s house.

I gladly accepted the invitation.

“Now, I’ll be going to gather nectar from birch, but what will Emmerich do?”

“I’ll go!”

Aina-chan said that she can do many things in the house.

Since I am unable to anything, it was thankful that I could have a taste.

I gladly decided to tag along.

After properly saying, “I’ll be off,” to Aina-chan and Rossa, I left..



With knives, guns and dogs, we headed into the forest.

When there are dogs, wild animals become more cautious, that they are not easily encountered.

Come to think of it, there were quite a bit of dogs at Aina-chan’s place. I realised that they were essential for life.

Apparently, there are dogs for hunting and dogs for pulling sleds.

“As for the dogs~ I think you can get some if you ask around the village.”

He also told me that I can get some from merchants.

“If there are any problems, you can always ask me.”

“Ah, thank you.”

Well, it feels like I’ve only been saying, “Ritz-kun’s amazing,” ever since I came here.

He really did have the gentleness and magnanimity that made Sieglinde fall for him.

As for helping out with the store, I will have to properly talk about it with Aina-chan, but I’d like to help him as much as possible.

As we chatted, we arrived at a place lush with birch trees.

Since getting birch nectar wasn’t that hard, I’ll be able to do it as well.

After returning home, I had lunch and then I decided to discuss with Aina-chan about helping out with Ritz-kun’s store.

“What do you think?”

When I tried to hear Aina-chan’s opinion first, she told me that it was up to.

My mind was made up already from a long time ago.

“I want to help Ritzhard-kun.”

“Me too.”

Both of us wanted to repay Ritz-kun and Sieglinde for their kindness.

The talk was over at a refreshing pace.

Afterwards, we made cookies to give them as gifts.

We used moulds made in the shape of cats, bought from the city.

They were very happy about the gift we made.

Here, I met Ritz-kun's mum for the first time.

"Aina-chan~, and Ritchan and Linde-chan's friend~ I heard that you were coming, so I had been looking forward to it~"

Mm. The atmosphere, the speech, they were all like Ritz-kun.

No, Ritz-kun takes after his mum.

It seems that his dad had returned to our country to present research. I'm sorry.

And their son, Arno-kun, had grown a lot in the short time that we did not see him.

It feels like he's resembling Sieglinde a lot now.....

Looks like he will grow into a manly person.

Ritz-kun's mum headed to the kitchen to prepare the meals.

Sieglinde wanted to help too, but apparently there was another lady so she said that it was alright.

Before the meals were served, we fully enjoyed Arno-kun's cuteness.

Aina-chan looked joyful as she held Arno-kun in her arms.

She sometimes did babysitting, so she said that she was used to holding babies.

The figure of Aina-chan holding a child in her chest is great. It feels like that image will be in a church painting.

While holding Arno-kun, Aina-chan said something with a blissful expression.

“I wonder when the Spirit will bring us children?”

——.....Nn? The Spirit, bringing, children?

Aina-chan, what do you mean by that?

I thought I heard wrong, so I asked just in case.

I had some berry juice to calm myself.

“Don’t you know? Children are brought by the Spirit, you see?”

That moment, the atmosphere froze up.

I ended up spewing out the berry juice in a burst.

Chapter 126 - His and Her Clumsy Snow Country Hunting Life

After I heard Aina-chan's shocking remark, the mealtime flew by.

It was a feast that Ritz-kun's mum and another lady made with their utmost. However, many things passed through my head that I could not enjoy the meal.

During the meal, I asked them I could help with the pub-cum-café.

Ritz-kun, Sieglinde and his mum was happy.

I took a breather after having tea after the meal.

The women were chatting over embroidery.

Ritz-kun and I were watching them.

Aina-chan looks like she's having fun. I'm glad.

Aina-chan is a shy girl, but it seems like she's friendly with Ritz-kun's mum.

This time, they were now talking about traditional handicrafts.

According to Sieglinde, Ritz-kun's mum is the best artisan in town, so Aina-chan's eyes were gleaming as she listened on.

Suddenly, Ritz-kun patted my shoulder.

"Ah, right! Emmerich, you said you wanted to see the work space, right? I'll show you around!"

"Eh!?"

Did I say that? I tilted my head.

Before I could reply, he dragged my arm and I was led to the upper floor.

.....Rather, Ritz-kun, he's quite strong.

The lantern in the workshop was lit.

There was a strange smell of wood and medicine.

On the shelves, there were wood lumps and handicrafts.

It really did feel like a crafter's room.

There were dozens of different knives for carving wood, all well-kept.

Whenever I see them, I can't help but admire all the amazing handicrafts.

"Sorry, Emmerich!"

"Eh?"

".....That, about Aina."

"Ah."

Apparently, it seems that girls in the village learn important facts about marriage from their mothers.

Aina-chan's mother, what should I say, she sent her daughter off with a smile while thinking she did that a long time ago.

"I'm really sorry! If you'd like, I can ask my wife to help."

I felt thankful for that. However, I declined.

“Emmerich, are you really alright?”

“Aina-chan probably already at her limit.”

Now, we are trying to adjust to our new life.

She’s a clumsy girl; she can’t handle so many things at once.

It was the same when we just moved to my country.

Aina-chan was very cautious about me.

Well, rather than cautious, she was just shy, or nervous, should I say?

Maybe because she didn’t get enough sleep, there were also days when she prepared breakfast with bloodshot eyes.

During such a lifestyle, the landlady even pointed out, “Aren’t you making her work too hard?”

Since I was dense, I replied, “Indeed, she might be straining herself too much,” to which she replied, “Remember to let her sleep properly at night.” I remember having a lot of question marks over my head from that.

Though the landlady’s worry was a big understanding.

Since there was something like that, I felt somewhat relieved that she slept soundly last night.

Though it was the first time we slept together, I felt happy that she slept well without getting tense.

Although, I felt a sense of crisis, that, is she not seeing me as a man?

Well, but even so, Aina-chan staying healthy is the most important.

For now, that is fine.

“Emmerich, thank you.”

Ritz-kun grasped my hands.

He said that he was happy that I was treasuring Aina-chan.

“I, too, know how you feel, very well.”

“?”

When I asked what it was, Ritz-kun told me the surprising secret of the couple.

The two that get along so well, were in fact pretending to be couples for a year.

It seems that Ritz-kun fell in love with her at first sight, but that wasn't so for Sieglinde.

She had some problems of her own, with people around her pushing her into marriage.

They married since their interests coincided, but before they married Sieglinde proposed a contract.

It was to live for one year and then accept her as a wife if he wants.

“I misinterpreted that contract, and believed that Sieglinde would annul our marriage if she didn't like the life.””

“So, in the end, it was not Wattin, but Ritzhard-kun who chose?”

“Yes. Funny, isn't it?”

Because of the misunderstood contract, Ritz-kun lived together with Sieglinde while feeling anxious sometimes.

Outside, they were couples, but inside the house they were treating each other as just people living together.

He was so in love with Sieglinde that he thought many amazing things.

“Since, my wife is cute, no?”

“Eh!?”

“Hm?”

“Ah, sorry, please continue.”

I have a past where I proposed to her after hearing that Sieglinde was to marry.

In retrospect, I think that was from the loneliness I would be feeling from her disappearing.

My eyes opened after I received that roundhouse kick.

That was not an action of love, but one purely of friendship.

Therefore, while I don't see Sieglinde as cute, not a single bit, she is the loveliest wife imaginable for Ritz-kun.

“So, for the first year I had to keep enduring.....”

Since it's the kind and diligent Ritz-kun, I was thinking that he was doing well from the beginning.

However, the reality is different, it seems.

“Well, it's like that, so cheer up, Emmerich.”

“Thank you.”

It was nice to hear the stories today.

I was feeling that I should take responsibility since I was so inexperienced.

However, that wasn't the case.

After learning that everyone becomes a couple after overcoming various problems, I got a lot of courage.

“Emmerich, marriage is a miracle where strangers become family.”

Place of birth, environment, habit, tastes, everything is different.

It's natural that there would be conflict, and not everything is pleasant.

However, he taught me that there are also piles of delightful events.

After retelling the story, he thanked me for listening, to which I thanked him in return.

Then, Aina-chan and I returned home.

When I opened the door, Rossa mewed in welcome.

I attempted to hug her up, but she dodged me with agile movements.

Then, she asked for a hug from Aina-chan.

M-Meanie.....



From the next day, I started working for Ritz-kun's family store.

The name of the store is 'Remote Land Pub • The Crimson Eagle'.

What should I say, I think I can tell his love for his wife just from the store's name.

Here, I was asked to be a waiter.

I received orders from the customers and serve them food from the kitchen.

I'm still not very used to the language of this country.

However, I will improve if I use it often, so I will do my best.

Sieglinde was to teach me.

“.....Erm,”

“What is it?”

“The servers, if it's Wattin and me, I think the mood might be a bit grim.”

“.....”

—— In the pretty store, there are two former soldiers waiting.

Sieglinde stared off into the distance.

I stared off into the distance as well.

There are many things to remember when working as a waiter.

Anyhow, the only choice I had was to repeat it many times and get used to it.

I had many worries, but I was just worrying unduly. Unexpectedly, the villagers were all kind.

They were not displeased when I asked them repeat the order, and even cheered for me.

Working there was a great experience.

My face was remembered by the villagers, that I would not be a suspicious person.

Aina-chan helped out with serving when she had time.

Her smile toward the villagers was still awkward, but they all watched her warmly.

In the afternoon, I'll be going fishing together with Aina-chan's grandfather.

It seems that his condition wasn't good, but it seems that he could start moving again recently.

He's still frightening, but I decided that I should get used to that as well.

Night.

"Good night."

"G-Good night."

Today too, Aina-chan worked hard so she was very sleepy.

She lied down while hugging Rossa in her chest.

A few seconds after I crawled into the bed, I could hear relaxed breathing from her.

——Nn. Children who sleep well grow up well!

I prayed that she will become an adult quickly.

I started looking forward to her growth.

.....To convince myself, I muttered that to myself.

Let's work hard again tomorrow.

I went off to sleep after vowing that to my heart.

Aina and Emmerich's Snow Country Hunting Life — Fin